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SECRET

MEMORANDUM TO : The Honorable
John A. McCone,
Director of Central Intelligence.

SUBJECT : Request for NIE

The Chairman of the Special Group (CI) has requested that we formally ask on his behalf for NIEs to be undertaken on the Dominican Republic and Honduras to meet the suggestions made by General Taylor on November 12, which were circulated to members of the Group. The Department of State agrees that it would be useful to have a comprehensive assessment related to the internal defense situation in each of the two countries.

We believe that we should have greater flexibility of approach if we plan a separate paper for each country -- the differences between the two situations clearly suggest different treatment, and we should then be able to stagger the schedules for the two estimates if need be.

We understand the problem as stated to require:

(a) an identifying and weighing of the forces which are working to produce a subversive situation;

(b) an assessment of the likelihood that subversion will actually occur;

(c) an evaluation of the prospect that subversion might prove durable or successful.

If our papers cover these three major points they will, it seems to us, furnish the best support for the Special Group (CI) in its consideration of the threat of subversive insurgency in these countries.

We do not believe that the threat is immediate, and we suggest that the projects have a high but not overriding priority. If you agree with the proposal in general, we could settle details and timing at USIB, perhaps after ONE had discussed possibilities with the working levels involved.

George C. Denney, Jr.,
Acting Director

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